

"The Mastery of the Far East"

By DOROTHY SCARBOROUGH.

THE MASTERY OF THE FAR EAST, by Arthur Judson Brown, contains a wealth of historical and sociological information given in a style that is both scholarly and entertaining. This is not a volume to be read in haste, for it is over 600 pages long, and is weighty in material, though not at all heavy in manner. It should be studied leisurely, and then consulted as a reference work when information concerning the Far East is desired.

Mr. Brown is something of an authority in the history of the East, as shown by his previous works, *New Forces in Old China*, *The Chinese Revolution*, and *The New Era in the Philippines*. In those studies he showed the profound significance which the problems of the Far East have for the world, and discussed the relations of China and the Philippine Islands to the new alignment of races that is developing. In the present book he treats of the relation of Korea and Japan to the mastery of the East. His central idea is that the Korean Peninsula constitutes the strategic point in the struggle.

Korea, the despised, or at least neglected country, small in comparison with its neighbor China, yet has an area one and one-half times that of New England, and is of considerable value.

"The tide of the world's travel has hardly more than touched Korea. Increasing numbers of travellers are visiting China and Japan, but most of them pass by their lesser neighbor. No famous temples, no beautiful palaces of the living or historic tombs of the dead attract the globe-trotter. Squalid towns and villages and wretchedly poor people offer faint lure to the seeker for the artistic or the picturesque. And yet to the thoughtful student of human life, to one who would understand the deep undercurrents of international affairs, and to one who would observe that most wonderful thing in the world, the spiritual transformation of a people, Korea is a deeply interesting land."

Mr. Brown describes the vanished days of old Korea, the people, their customs, their education and lack of it, their literature and their religious beliefs. He shows that while the Koreans are squalid and uncivilized in their poverty, immoral and uncultured, yet they possess many admirable traits, and most of their shortcomings are due not to their own weakness so much as to the system under which they have been forced for generations to live.

He tells us that in Korea there is no family life as we know it, and women have a lower place there than even in China or Japan, possessing less freedom and less influence. Yet there are amusing concessions made for them.

"When the missionaries first went to Korea, they found a quaint method of permitting women to go abroad without scandal. Instead of having a curfew for children, there was one for men. They were to be in the house by 9 o'clock, so that their wives and daughters could promenade the streets without reproach. If a man had to be out after that hour and met a woman, he was expected to shield his face with a fan and hasten from her. To touch her or even to speak to her in such circumstances was a punishable offense."

Mr. Brown relates the struggle for the possession of Korea, which has brought

about various wars. The rival claims of China and Japan for the possession of the land brought about the China-Japan War. He discusses the Chinese ascendancy in Korea, which dated from early times, and which China disclaimed only when she wished to dodge responsibility for claims against Korea made by France for the murder of French missionaries, and by Admiral Rodgers of the American Navy, who claimed satisfaction for the murder of the crew of a schooner. Japan has made various invasions seeking to win Korea, so that between the rival claims the little country has suffered devastation and waste repeatedly.

Russia, too, desired Korea as a vassal state, and made secret though strenuous efforts to take possession of it. Japan, in counter effort, had the Korean Queen murdered, and so intimidated the King that he sought the protection of the American Minister.

The imperial power of Japan as affecting the destinies of the Far East is discussed at length. The social and economic conditions in Japan, the character of Japanese rule in Korea, the problems of commercial development, of education, the struggle between autocracy and democracy, and the religious and social life of Japan are dealt with, as well as the effect of the world war on Japan, and the relations between Japan and America.

Mr. Brown, being a missionary, devotes much space to the influence of the Christian missions in the problem of the Far East, showing the great and valuable work that has been done there by the missionaries.

"The influence of Christian missions has already attained magnitude as one of the recognized forces operating in eastern Asia. We have considered the chief political forces in the Far East whose policies and methods have sometimes operated independently, at other times conflictingly, and at still others jointly. But another force is operating, a force far more far-reaching in character and results—the force of Christian missions. It is the most pervasive and reconstructive of all forces. Others affect more or less extensive changes in externals; but this effects an internal transformation." He shows how in education, economical affairs, medicine, sanitation, the care of the helpless, and in many other aspects of life the Far East owes its light to missionaries.

Mr. Brown's book is a most interesting and timely discussion of problems which affect the welfare of the world at this time.

THE MASTERY OF THE FAR EAST.
By ARTHUR JUDSON BROWN. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$6.

"He Made His Wife His Partner"

"FOR I was an efficiency crank," writes Henry Irving Dodge in his narrative of how to make farming easy entitled *He Made His Wife His Partner*. And on his efficiency crankiness rests the burden of his tale, which is devoted to showing the advantages of using "power" on a farm. The tale is told by a farmer's boy who left the homestead to go to a city to earn his living and who returns to the farm with a wife, who was a very capable stenographer, for the reason he felt the life bucolic to be his *metier*, as they say in the sylvan recesses of Greenwich Village. Like all farmers, this nameless narrator had a hard time of it in the beginning until his wife began to suggest applying to their work the efficiency methods of their old time factory jobs.

They formed a stock company of the farm, allotted different shares in the work to their sons and daughter, installed power in the kitchen, barn, cow house, cut down the use of horses by employing tractors. In fact they became living advertisements for electrical equipment houses, farm machinery firms and Henryford's latest agricultural vehicle. All this reads like an agricultural mechanical Utopia; but when we know what dry farming, intensive farming and irrigation have done for certain sections of our country, doubtless this is a Utopia that in one form and another really exists. Mr. Dodge's little book is rich in suggestions of labor-saving theory and practice that may be applied to almost any walk of life, even one as limited in area as the traditional New York housekeeping apartment.

HE MADE HIS WIFE HIS PARTNER.
By HENRY IRVING DODGE. Harper & Brothers. \$1.35.

"Tumblefold"

By CONSTANCE MURRAY GREENE

JOSEPH WHITTAKER, the English journalist, who is responsible for a book bearing the delightful name of *Tumblefold*, calls it a book of memories. "It is nothing ambitious, mind you, this book. Just the plain, unadorned story of some of the infinite experiences of five street urchins, of whom I was one." No one who reads it will doubt its authenticity or fail to respond to the depth and sincerity of feeling out of which it has been fashioned. Stories of English child life in the slums are plentiful enough, but not such as *Tumblefold*. It is a splendid rendering of something which can so easily be done clumsily that we have rather come to expect the grotesque and merely vulgar. But the tale of these five small boys, the superstitions and legends surrounding them, the cruel hardships and unspeakable revelations which came to them and the love for one another which sustained and finally lifted them out of the pit into which circumstances had hurled them, is one that we should not like to have missed.

"I was Johnny Yeubrey," Mr. Whittaker writes, "but somehow—perhaps because *Tumblefold* is so far away and it is all so long ago—I can never convince myself that Johnny Yeubrey and I are one and the same. I cannot help muttering in musing pity, 'Poor old Johnny!'"

Sometimes in dreams I live through it all again, and I wake with an agonizing dread which holds me from looking through my window lest I should meet the same dark, hideous stretch that was *Tumblefold*, and seeing the damned faces at the doors, know myself to be with them and of them.

"Then I remember, and am glad. I know that our gain was not their loss. And their day may yet come."

The tragedy is interspersed with charming bits of humor, such as a description of the annual Sunday school outing on a canal boat which was rocked violently from side to side by our five boys and others, to their infinite delight and the curate's, but to the agony of the beneficent old ladies who were in charge. Perhaps the single touch which remains most distinctly in our memories is that occasion when the five young friends first went into the country and, seeing trees in fenced fields, thought the object of the fences was to keep the trees from walking away.

TUMBLEFOLD. By JOSEPH WHITTAKER. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.90.

The Bolsheviks have nationalized literature and only by some such severe step will we attain to the Great American Novel.



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The intimate experiences of a few unrecognized Good Sports are recorded in **OLIVE HIGGINS PROUTY'S** notable volume of short stories, **GOOD SPORTS**. "It is a comfort," says the *N. Y. Tribune*, "to have people write so cleanly, so lucidly, so naturally, and to make wholesome tales of human life as interesting as life itself should always be."

CLEMENCEAU: The Man and His Time, by H. M. HYNDMAN, is acclaimed by critics as the leading biography of the year. "A masterly biography," says the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "and, in addition, a captivating review of the France of the last fifty years."

Even a partial understanding of the news of the day necessitates a knowledge of the histories of the peoples presenting their national claims to the Peace Conference. **ISAAC DON LEVINE'S THE RESURRECTED NATIONS** gives the essential facts briefly and interestingly.

GERTRUDE ATHERTON'S THE AVALANCHE continues to find friends. The *Boston Post* says "it's the plausible and exciting sort of tale that does not let you turn the pages leisurely." **At all bookshops.**

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